

Faith-based and Community-based Organizations

(from the Background of the DOL Guidance for the WIA State Plan)

Effective Utilization of Faith-based and Community Based Organizations

President Bush signed Executive Order 13198 on January 29, 2001, with the goal of removing statutory, regulatory, and procedural barriers that prevent faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) from participating in the provision of social services. The Department of Labor Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives, created under the Executive Order, has worked closely with ETA to help increase the opportunities for FBCOs to partner with the workforce investment system. As legal and regulatory barriers have been removed, the Department of Labor has been increasingly focusing on ways to integrate FBCOs into the WIA system at the local level including:

- Expanding the access of faith-based and community organizations' clients and customers to the training, job and career services offered by the local One-Stop Centers;
- Increasing the number of faith-based and community organizations serving as committed and active partners in the One-Stop delivery system.

By integrating the public workforce system with the resources available through these organizations, the capacity of the workforce investment system to serve those most in need is significantly expanded. Continuing to promote integration of FBCOs remains a focal point for the President and the Department of Labor. States are encouraged to incorporate strategies that include FBCOs into their State Plans.

(from the Planning Instructions of the DOL Guidance for the WIA State Plan)

- IX. H. Strategies for Faith-based and Community Organizations (§112(b)(17)(i).)
- Enhancing outreach opportunities to those most in need is a fundamental element of the demand-driven systems goal to increase the pipeline of needed workers while meeting the training and employment needs of those most at risk. Faith-based and community organizations provide unique opportunities for the workforce investment system to access this pool of workers and meet the needs of business and industry.

Describe those activities to be undertaken to: (1) increase the opportunities for participation of faith-based and community organizations as committed and active partners in the One-Stop delivery system; and (2) expand the access of faith-based and community-based organizations' clients and customers to the services offered by the One-Stops in the State. Outline those action steps designed to strengthen State collaboration efforts with local workforce investment areas in conducting outreach campaigns to educate faith-based and community organizations about the attributes and objectives of the demand-driven workforce investment system. Indicate how these resources can be strategically and effectively leveraged in the State's workforce investment areas to help meet the objectives of the Workforce Investment Act.